programmes and schemes. The implementation of the Central schemes/programmes for development of small scale industries has supplemented the growth of SSI and tiny sector in many ways as evident from the increase in the number of registered units in this sector from 24.06 lakhs in 1998-99 to 26.72 lakhs (projected) in 2000-01. The investment in this sector during 1998-99 which was Rs. 77531 crore has gone up to Rs. 89276 crore in 2000-01. The employment generated has shown an increase from Rs. 171.58 lakhs in 1998-99 to Rs. 185.64 lakhs in 2000-01. The export has gone up from Rs. 48979 crore to Rs. 59978 crore during this period. Besides these, under various programmes 85776 persons have undergone training in different fields during the last three years. Similarly, under PMRY a total number of 6,03,142 cases have been sanctioned during this period.

Soft loan facilities to SSI Sector

5394. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite SIDBI and other financial institutions, small scale industries find it difficult to get soft loan facilities considering those institutions are located only in large cities; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to provide soft loan facilities on easy terms to the small scale industries located throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) extends soft loan facilities to small scale industries located throughout the country through Primary Lending Institutions which have a countrywide network of branches.

Perfume factories in Madurai

5395. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up perfume factories based on